



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
125th anniversary

January 22, 2014

The Honorable Karen Bass
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: SUPPORT – H.R. 3620: Local Hire Act

Dear Representative Bass:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and our 1,600 members, I write to express our support for H.R. 3620: Local Hire Act.

Existing federal procurement regulations do not permit transportation agencies to require bidders to establish local hiring or purchasing programs or to take such programs and policies directly into account in the bid evaluation process. This regulation hinders job creation and economic growth in Los Angeles, which funds much of its transportation projects with local dollars.

The Local Hire Act will allow Los Angeles to better leverage its local transportation dollars to create much-needed jobs in our region by prioritizing the hiring of local residents for highway and transit projects, while preserving competition and cost effectiveness. This proposed change in federal hiring regulations is especially important to Los Angeles given that our City and County have one of the highest unemployment rates in the Nation.

I applaud your leadership on this job-creating legislation, and for allowing Los Angeles to take charge of its own economic recovery. We believe this legislation will also help spur economic growth in other self-help counties throughout the U.S. On behalf of the Chamber and our members, I thank you once again for your forward-thinking legislation.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
President & CEO

CC: The Hon. Henry Waxman
The Hon. Lucille Roybal-Allard
The Hon. Janice Hahn
The Hon. Tim Bishop
The Hon. Grace F. Napolitano